

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is courteously solicited.

Initially the undersigned would like to thank Examiner Vidovich for the courtesies extended during an oral hearing held with the undersigned on October 11, 2004. During the above noted oral hearing the instant application was discussed in detail.

Applicant submits herewith newly amended independent claim 1, independent claim 6 and independent claim 7 for the Examiner's consideration. It is respectfully submitted that these claims patentably define over the art of record. As discussed with Examiner Vidovich at the above noted oral hearing, any rejection of the amended claims based on the previously cited and applied prior art references would amount to a hindsight reconstruction which is not permitted under 35 USC 103. It is submitted that it would not be obvious absent applicant's instant disclosure to isolate the teachings of Itai et al. into the Griffin et al. system. Specifically, with regard to amended independent claim 1, the newly added subject matter further distinguishes over the prior art applied and renders any application of Itai et al. under 35 USC 103 untenable. Similar amendments have been made to independent claims 6 and 7 and they also are believed to greatly define over the prior art.

Finally, it should be noted that at the above noted oral hearing the requirement for a new drawing was withdrawn by Examiner Vidovich.

By the foregoing it is submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

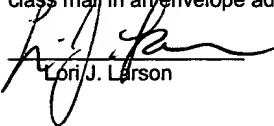
Respectfully submitted,

By

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Date: November 2, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on November 2, 2004.


Lori J. Larson